

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 06997 271055Z

51

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 L-02 RSR-01 /046 W

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R 270946Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 674

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6997

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJECT: PAKISTAN-AFGHANISTAN RELATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 6853, 6873 (NOTAL)

1. DURING MY MEETING WITH HIM AUGUST 26 AT HIS LARKANA (SIND) HOME, PRIMIN BHUTTO BROUGHT UP TALK I HAD HAD WITH HIS SPECIAL ASSISTANT BUCH SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER AT BHUTTO'S REQUEST. HE SAID HE COULD APPRECIATE AFGHAN CONCERN OVER DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THEIR BORDER, BUT FACT WAS THAT ISSUES RELATED TO EVENTS WITHIN SOVIEREIGN TERRITORY OF PAKISTAN. HE WAS COMMITTED TO FOSTERING GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN AND HE HAD DONE HIS BEST TOWARD THAT END DURING YEARS WHEN HE WAS ONE OF AYUB'S MINISTERS. BHUTTO RECALLED HAVING MET DAUD IN 1967, WHEN BOTH OF THEM WERE OUT OF OFFICE. DAUD HAD TOLD HIM THEN THAT HE WAS NOT QTE ANTI-PAKISTAN UNQTE. BHUTTO TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT KABUL BEFORE HIS TRIP TO US IN MIDSEPT. SO AS TO RENEW CONTACT WITH DAUD AND TRY TO CALM THE SITUATION. WHETHER
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 06997 271055Z

HE WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO KABUL THAT SOON DEPENDS, HE SAID,

ON INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS WITHIN PAKISTAN (I.E., THE FLOOD SITUATION AND THE RESISTANCE CAMPAIGN BEING MOUNTED BY THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION) AND BY THE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT INDO-PAK TALKS IN DELHI. VEATTOWLE, HE HOPED THAT FRIENDLY COUNTRIES WOULD MAINTAIN POSITION THAT KABUL SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

2. I SAID I THOUGHT IT WAS A FINE IDEA OF HIS TO VISIT KABUL IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND I HOPED IT WOULD WORK OUT. IT SEEMED VERY CLEAR TO US THAT ANY SERIOUS DETERIORATION IN PAK-AFGHAN RELATIONS WOULD CONSTITUTE A BAD SET BACK TO THE REGION.

3. I THEN REMARKED THAT I HAD HAD OCCASION DURING A VISIT TO PESHAWAR LAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THIS GENERAL MATTER WITH NWFP GOVERNOR ASLAM KHATTAK. KHATTAK HAD RECALLED HIS SERVING AS PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR IN KABUL FOR SOME HALF-DOZEN YEARS IN LATE 50'S AND EARLY 60'S WHEN DAUD WAS PRIMIN. KHATTAK BELIEVED HE HAD ESTABLISHED GOOD RELATIONS WITH DAUD AT THAT TIME AND SPECULATED THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO SOME GOOD IF HE WAS SENT AS BHUTTO'S SPECIAL EMISSARY TO DISCUSS PRESENT SITUATION WITH DAUD. BHUTTO SAID THERE WERE NUMBER OF OTHER PAK PATHANS WHO ARE PROBABLY AT LEAST AS WELL CONNECTED A KHATTAK WITH DAUD; ASKING ONE OF THEM TO GO TO KABUL WAS A POSSIBILITY BUT BHUTTO WANTED TO KEEP OPEN THE OPTION OF MAKING THE TRIP PERSONALLY.

4. COMMENT: THERE HAD NOT BEEN TIME, BEFORE THIS PREVIOUSLY UNSCHEDULED VISIT WITH BHUTTO, FOR DEPARTMENT TO SEND ME GUIDANCE WHICH I REQUESTED IN MY 6874. THE SUBJECT IS SURE TO COME UP AGAIN.
SOBER

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